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Security Council

Fifty-eighth year

Provisional

4840th meeting

Monday, 13 October 2003, 5.40 p.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Negroponte	(United States of America)
Members:	Angola	Mr. Constantino
	Bulgaria	Mr. Tafrov
	Cameroon	Mr. Belinga-Eboutou
	Chile	Mr. Maquieira
	China	Mr. Wang Guangya
	France	Mr. De La Sablière
	Germany	Mr. Pleuger
	Guinea	Mr. Sow
	Mexico	Mr. Aguilar Zinser
	Pakistan	Mr. Khalid
	Russian Federation	Mr. Lavrov
	Spain	Mr. Arias
	Syrian Arab Republic	Mr. Mekdad
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir Emyr Jones Parry

Agenda

The situation in Afghanistan

Letter dated 7 October 2003 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2003/970)

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03-55531 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 5.40 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Afghanistan

Letter dated 7 October 2003 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2003/970)

The President: I should like to inform the Council that I have received a letter from the representative of Afghanistan, in which he requests to be invited to participate in the discussion of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite that representative to participate in the discussion without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Farhâdi (Afghanistan) took a seat at the Council table.

The President: The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on the agenda.

The Security Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations. I should like to draw the attention of members to the following documents: photocopies of a letter dated 10 October 2003 from Afghanistan, which will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/2003/986; and S/2003/970, letter dated 7 October 2003 from the Secretary-General. Members of the Council also have before them document S/2003/984, which contains the text of a draft resolution prepared in the course of the Council's prior consultations.

It is my understanding that the Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution. Unless I hear any objection, I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Angola, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Chile, China, France, Germany, Guinea, Mexico, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Spain, Syrian Arab Republic, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

The President: There were 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 1510 (2003).

I shall now give the floor to those members of the Council who wish to make statements following the voting.

Mr. De La Sablière (France) (*spoke in French*): France has just voted for the draft resolution that has been adopted as resolution 1510 (2003).

Afghanistan is now at a critical juncture for its future. We commend the determination of the international community to support the Afghan people and authorities to assist them to meet the immense challenge of reconstruction and peace.

For its part, France is already greatly involved in Afghanistan, and intends to remain so. With respect to security, French forces are taking part in the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) and in the operations against terrorist networks in the framework of Operation Enduring Freedom. Moreover, the French army is helping, side by side with United States forces, in the training of a new Afghan army.

Nevertheless, France considers that the extension of the ISAF mandate that the Security Council has just decided on does not entail a commitment of its forces outside Kabul. France does not plan to involve itself in missions beyond those that it is currently fulfilling.

The resolution authorizes ISAF to protect international civil personnel involved, in particular, in reconstruction efforts and humanitarian assistance. We understand that the protection provided by ISAF relates above all to the civilian personnel of the provincial reconstruction teams (PRT).

It is essential today that the international community give its full support to the Afghan authorities to enable them to exercise effective power over the entire Afghan territory. This is the full meaning of the Bonn Agreement, in both the letter and the spirit. The international community must spare no effort to help Afghanistan to take its fate into its own hands once again. France will continue, with many other nations, to do its part.

The President: There being no other speakers inscribed on my list, the Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The Security Council will remain seized of the matter.

The meeting rose at 5.50 p.m.